

**Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum**  
from  
**Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records**  
10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday  
May 5, 2020

**Notes**

Attending: Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, Bruce Douglass, Betts Markle, Brett Silver, NSLAPR; Amy Geddes, Wynne Prindle, Lyon County Library; Jeff Scott, Joan Dalusung, Washoe County Library; Elizabeth Robinson, Humboldt County Library; Joy Gunn, Marcie Smedley, Henderson District Libraries; Carol Lloyd, Churchill County Library; Tod Colegrove, Diane Baker, Maria Klesta, Carson City Library Forrest Lewis, Shelly Alexander, North Las Vegas Library District; Susan Wonderly, Shanna Gibbons, Alysha Wogee, Pahrump Community Library; Andrea Madziarek, Jeanne Bleecker, Smoky Valley Library District; Lori Romero, White Pine County Library; Ron Heezen, Danielle Milam, LVCCLD; Cyndi O, NV Library CoOp; Holly Esposito, Washoe County School District; Pamela Bidart, Humboldt County School District; Lara Schott, Sierra Nevada College; Eric Walsh, Great Basin College; Caprice Roberson, CSN; Ron Belbin, WNC; Sarah Bates, Washoe County Law Library; Nancy Schmidt, Randi Hunewill, SCLL.



## **WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW**



### **Strengths:**

- Libraries are working together to develop reopening guidelines
- Public use of digital content offered by libraries is showing explosive growth
- The Department of Education recognizes that public libraries are an essential partner in sustaining student success
- Libraries are implementing new services such as electronic library cards and Beanstack to reach people in virtual spaces
- Libraries are finding solutions that work for their communities and local circumstances (i.e. hotspots, virtual programs, 3D printing of PPE)
- Libraries are recognized as learning hubs and important community institutions



### **Struggles:**

- Uncertainty regarding how to keep staff and public safe after reopening libraries
- Budget reductions during current FY and planning for cuts in next FY that will affect staff and purchases
- Reaching those who have no or limited access to digital content.
- COVID 19 positive cases continue to rise, including some of the rural counties

- Continuing pressure to reopen libraries from the public
- Staying positive



## Opportunities

- Promoting Libraries to the Legislature and public
- Closer bonds and alliances with educational institutions
- Closer internal bonds as staff join forces to meet and conquer new challenges
- Closing the digital divide in underserved areas
- Increasing the use of digital resources and platforms by staff and public



## Trends

- Circumstances vary widely from one community to another and libraries are working toward reopening strategies that fit their particular community
- Schools and public libraries are finding ways to partner and work together
- Providing digital hardware and services to our communities
- Usage of digital resources continue to increase
- Professional development of library staff continues to be a priority

Welcome – Tammy Westergard welcomed everyone and opened discussion about the topic on everyone’s mind - reopening.

Reopening - The reopening checklist was sent out and next week a survey will go out to get feedback from libraries about their reopening plans. On May 14-15, a think tank made up of librarians will assess the feedback from the surveys and validate it against best practices. Joan Dalusung, Jeff Scott, Diane Baker and Kassie Antonucci have volunteered to be part of the Think Tank; Amy Geddes also volunteered. Anyone else who’d like to participate in the Think Tank should contact Tammy, ASAP. The goal is to have final guidance released in conjunction with NLA no later than the week of May 25. Danielle Milam from LVCCLD commented that their reopening plan was approved by the library board on April 28. She will forward it to Tammy for dissemination to all library directors.

Summer Reading – Tammy updated about plans with DOE to offer Renaissance’s MyON product. It includes primarily nonfiction titles along with newspaper articles. All Nevada students will be enrolled in MyON and libraries will be added so that they can access it. Training webinars begin May 7 and information has been sent to Directors about signing up. DOE will help market library summer reading programs and elibrary cards and is excited to know about the iterations of summer reading among the libraries. A culminating event, sponsored by DOE, is still in the planning stages.

Tammy also mentioned a DOE/MyON Champions Academy which will offer 16 hours of professional development training May 26-29. Anyone interested in attending should let Tammy know, and she will get them signed up. Diane Baker commented that she is interested in seeing more about MyON and how it might be layered into summer reading plans. Tammy also said the school districts will include information about library ecards, internet access and summer reading in communication that they will be sending out to families at the end of the school year.

## Library Updates

Danielle Milam: LVCCLD has put in a request to offer curbside pickup. Download of ebooks has gone up substantially during the quarantine. Biggest concern is with non-digitally connected students and parents. Clark County School District has told them that 100,000 students are not participating in online learning. LVCCLD has had good conversations with welfare and workforce development and are working to pull technology out of computer labs to get it out onto the floor so people will be able to use it. TANF is interested in having clients come to the libraries to sign up for services, and the libraries need more hotspots, laptops and other devices so they can help the agencies assist their clients.

In regard to summer reading, last year the library partnered with KTNV Channel 13 and other partners on *Summer Rise*, and they are all working together again this year.

Nancy Schmidt: Stephanie Gibson from Nevada Humanities and Cyndi O from CoOp have been working behind the scenes to get Overdrive in place for NevadaReads. She deferred to Cyndi O for further updates.

Cyndi O: Helping NVReads transition into a digital online program that will expand the program and increase public participation. Have been coordinating with publishers and Overdrive to allow simultaneous use of the two selected titles, *Nomadland* and *Severance*. Nancy added that they will be putting together a small group for further planning and would welcome others to join. Cyndi stated that this truly is a statewide project as all Overdrive collections in the state are included in the agreement.

Forrest Lewis: North Las Vegas is working to put a plan together for the phased reopening of the libraries. They are working with the City and working to figure out the best way forward.

Marcie Smedley: Henderson is also working on their plans for reopening and all the other pieces that support that. Are planning to have a hybrid model for staff to work both from home and from the library and are looking at personnel policies in relation to that.

Caprice Roberson: The CSN library is waiting for decisions to be made by the college. Students will not be coming back for the summer so they are looking ahead to fall and looking at how much capacity the library can handle.

Courney Oberhansli: Mineral County is also planning for reopening and finding it daunting to think through all the ramifications. They are moving some items from the library floor into the office areas in preparation.

Carol Lloyd: Churchill County launched asking a Librarian recently. Beanstack rollout is going well and is being pushed to the schools. Staff is working in the building; will be filming story times and a tutorial on how to register for summer reading. Have had volunteers doing storytime and posting on Facebook. The strong response made the library realize that this is something they should be doing. Were looking toward reopening but two new cases caused them to pull back a little on those plans.

Diane Baker, Tod Colegrove: Carson City is 3D printing over 2,000 swabs a day and sending them to medical labs. They are also still printing faceshields and were pleased to provide some to other libraries. They have received thank you letters from members of Congress for their efforts and feels this will help with future library advocacy and funding. They continue to plan for opening May 15<sup>th</sup> and will present a plan to the city at the end of the week. They are using a phased-in approach with curbside pickup offered first and trying to be sure the City can support their plans. The assumption is that this will be a tentative opening, and both the public and staff will be required to wear masks.

Eric Walsh Great Basin College: The shutdown of public spaces hasn't been disruptive because we were online already. There are concerns about reopening to the public. They might not provide continuing education classes in the future to the local community to protect both staff and students. Overall, the library is well and planning our reopening soon.

Jeanne Bleeker: Smoky Valley libraries are doing fine. Board meeting tonight. We are cleaning the library to keep everyone safe and putting away interactive toys, etc. There haven't been any positive cases of COVID 19 in Round Mountain or Manhattan, and the public is eager for us to open and get back to normal.

Ron Belbin: WNC is at the end of the semester with finals next week. They have gotten through the chaotic state and are starting to think about how things will look going forward. Staffing situation is challenged, and drastic cuts to library funding are expected. In good news, the Pennington Foundation donated 75 Chromebooks for students without devices. A significant number of students also do not have internet access. They are considering creating instructional videos and reaching out to students on a variety of platforms.

Wynne Prindle: Lyon County is working together to figure out what to do going forward. Have been holding weekly staff meetings on Zoom and cleaning the libraries. Have swapped some collections between branches so the public will have new materials to choose from at no cost to the budget. They are looking forward to NVReads.

Susan Wonderly: Things are good in Pahrump. They are doing curbside pickups for patrons who have holds but have not advertised it. Staff is wearing face masks when delivering them. Most patrons are wondering when things will go back to normal.

Jeff Scott: Washoe County has more cases than some of the rural counties and are working on a four phase plan. Some staff will be activated May 18 for training for virtual summer reading. They are planning for a June 1 opening but will be short staffed as there is a hiring freeze and some staff have been identified as vulnerable to the virus. They will not be offering curbside pickup due to the challenges of offering it in their circumstances. Programming has transitioned to fully virtual. They have prepared a draft plan and will send it to Tammy for the use of other libraries.

Tammy Westergard thanked Jeff and other libraries who have offered to share their reopening plans. The think tank will look for commonalities and gaps in the plans to incorporate into guidelines.

She also thanked Joan Dalasung for leading the SCLL meeting last week. Joan thanked everyone who submitted a grant application and gave a shout out to Council for a thoughtful meeting.

Pam Bidart: Humboldt County School District is following the normal school calendar with school closing on June 4 with a drive through graduation ceremony. She reported that there have now been three deaths in the county which is affecting everyone.

Tammy closed the meeting by reiterating that the survey about reopening plans will open on Monday with responses needed by close of business on Tuesday, May 12. Libraries should also send their reopening plans to Tammy if they would like them to be incorporated into the guidelines. She thanked everyone for all their hard work during this time.